

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Currently Amended) A method for the determination of multimers of multimer-forming proteins by gel electrophoresis, comprising wherein fractionating a sample containing von Willebrand factor or fibrinogen into multimer bands ~~is fractionated~~ by submarine electrophoresis using a continuous, homogeneous agarose gel free of lumps, wherein visualizing multimer bands ~~are visualized by immunostaining after a Western blot analysis using a specific antibody-enzyme conjugate on a blotting membrane, or are visualized~~ by a dye in the gel, and optionally, ~~wherein~~ quantifying ~~stained bands on the blotting membrane or the dyed multimer bands the gel are quantified.~~

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the dye is a blue stain.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the multimer-forming protein is fibrinogen.